

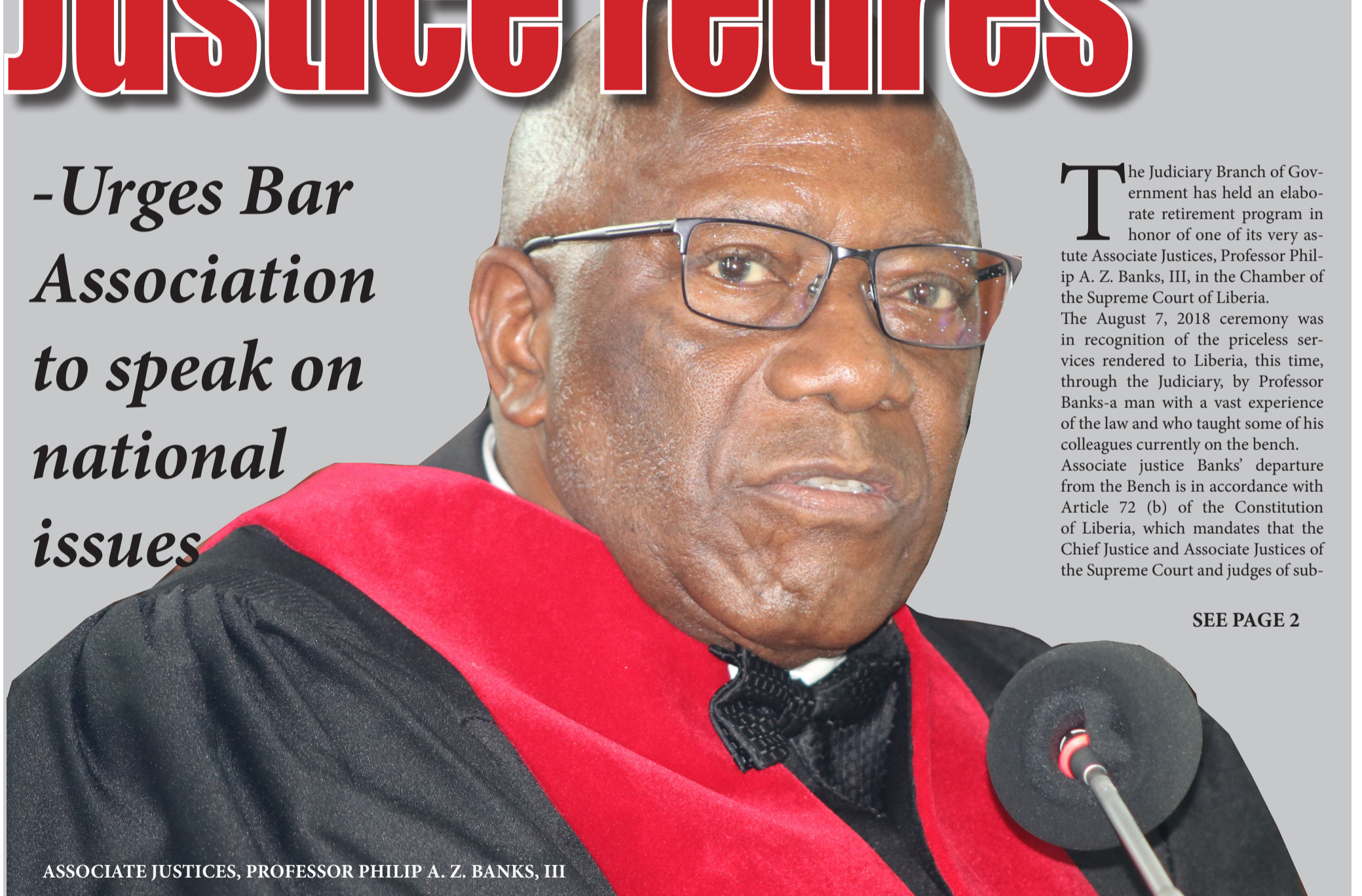
The Judiciary

September - October 2018

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Astute Associate Justice retires

*-Urges Bar
Association
to speak on
national
issues*



ASSOCIATE JUSTICES, PROFESSOR PHILIP A. Z. BANKS, III

The Judiciary Branch of Government has held an elaborate retirement program in honor of one of its very astute Associate Justices, Professor Philip A. Z. Banks, III, in the Chamber of the Supreme Court of Liberia. The August 7, 2018 ceremony was in recognition of the priceless services rendered to Liberia, this time, through the Judiciary, by Professor Banks—a man with a vast experience of the law and who taught some of his colleagues currently on the bench. Associate Justice Banks' departure from the Bench is in accordance with Article 72 (b) of the Constitution of Liberia, which mandates that the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of sub-

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Judges Want Befitting Retirement Laws Passed



JUDGE ROOSEVELT WILLIE, RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE OF CRIMINAL COURT A

The National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia, NATJL, has called upon the 54th National Legislature and the Executive Branch of Government to consider enacting laws aimed at retiring judges and magistrates with dignity in line with international best practice. Judge Roosevelt Willie, Resident Circuit Judge of Criminal Court A at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, made the plea Monday, August 14, 2018, during programs marking the opening of the August Term of courts in the First Judicial Circuit, in Montserrado County. According to Judge Willie, who also presides over Criminal Court D this term, the enact-

ment of such law is urgent now because of the recently filed petition of retired Associate Justice Gladys K. Johnson before the Supreme Court of Liberia, concerning her retirement benefits. "We therefore humbly appeal to the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia to bring down the opinion in this matter, which will serve as a precedent also for judges and magistrates."

Delivering the joint charge of the First Judicial Circuit, hosting Criminal Courts A, B, C, D and E, Judge Willie noted that the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia, NATJL, has for about a decade done everything legally and humanly possible to move the Legislative and Executive Branches of Government to pass appropriate retirement laws befitting

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Astute Associate Justice retires, urges Bar Association to speak on national issues

ordinate courts of record shall be retired at the age of seventy.

The ceremony, graced by senior government officials, lawyers, diplomats, law students and some members of the public, coincided with the closing of 2018 March Term of the Supreme Court and trailed the admission of forty two lawyers into the Bar of the High Court after successfully completing the rigorous prerequisites for admittance.

Senator Prince Y. Johnson of Nimba County, Senator Joseph N. Nagbe of Sinoe County and Education Minister, Dr. D. Ansu Sonie were among the several government officials and diplomats present at the program.

Associate Justice Banks—a 1974 graduate of the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law (Magnum Cum Laude) attained the retirement age of 70 in June 2018, but, was required by law to stay on until cases before him were completed.

In separate remarks and tributes, the Justices of the Supreme Court were full of praises for their departing colleague, describing him as being a stabilizer, who usually played the role of an elder, providing wisdom and direction for the bench when it came to making critical decisions.

Associate Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh, in her tribute, said Justice Banks taught her, was her boss at the Governance Commission, and impacted her life in every sphere; she prayed God's blessings upon him as he goes into retirement.

Associate Justice Jamesetta H. Wolokolie, also recounted Justice Bank's vast legal experience gained from his participation in the codification of Liberian laws. She praised his eloquence and excellent writing skills and described him as a man of intellect and experience.

For Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh, Justice Banks represents "erudite legal scholarship".

"Justice Banks, you are one of the finest Liberian Jurists of our time" said Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

Responding to the many praises heaped upon him for the brilliance and wealth of experience he took to the "Korkpor Bench", the retiree lauded his colleagues for the level of cooperation and collaboration they exhibited during his time of service.

Justice Banks described his Supreme Court journey as a wonderful experience and that he performed the way he did for the good of Liberia. "Every time I made a decision on this court; and every time that I dissented from the majority on this court; it was only and only because, I had the public in my mind and focus." The former Dean of the Law School at the University of Liberia, who taught almost every justice on the current bench, said "I love the intellect and the challenge. That is why I am back at the law school."

He attributed his success to the

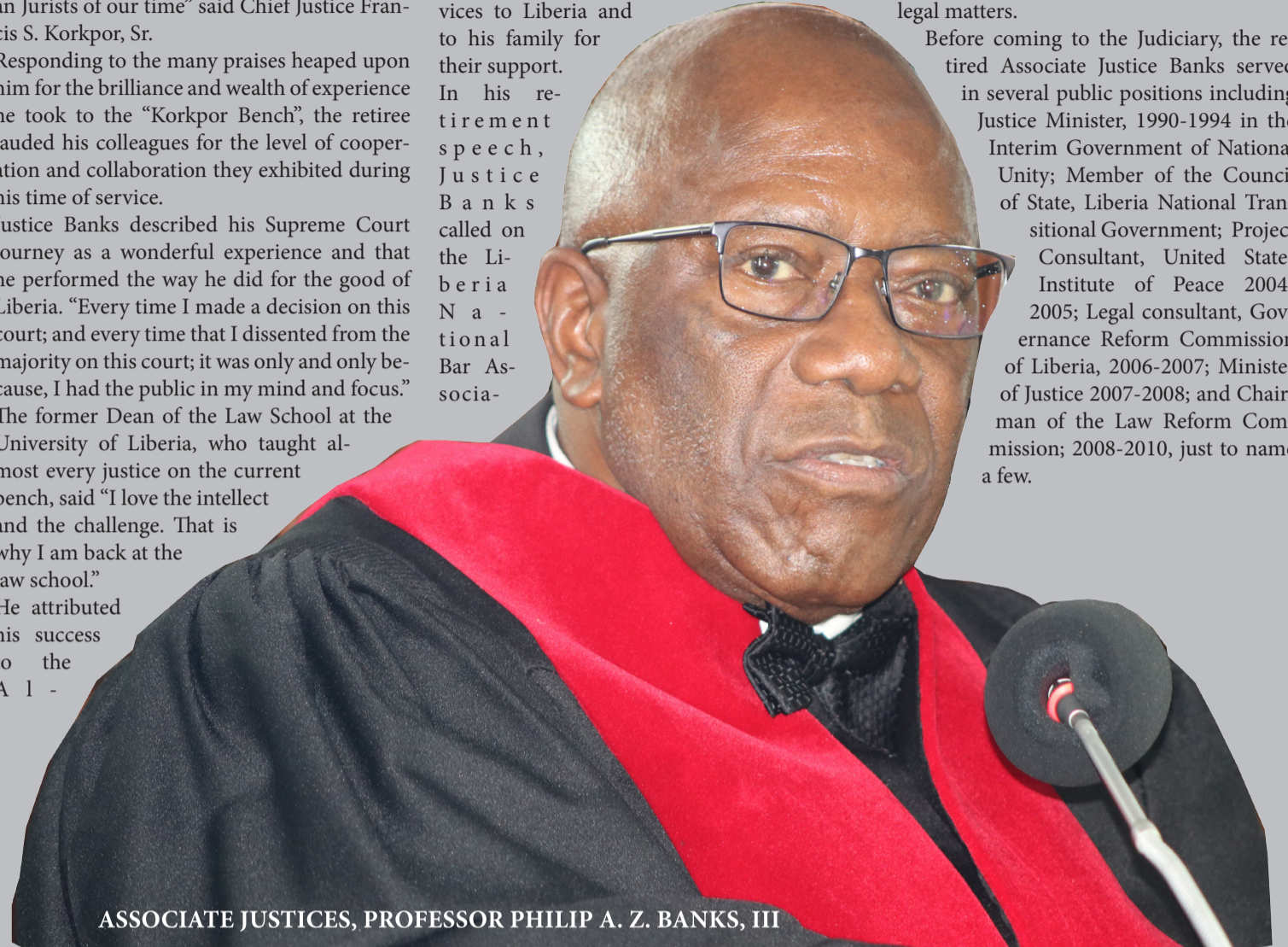
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mighty God first, then to his wife and family members, whom he jokingly noted, loaned him to the government of Liberia for service to the Liberian people. Justice Banks expressed gratitude to God for endowing him with the ability to render quality services to Liberia and to his family for their support. In his retirement speech, Justice Banks called on the Liberian National Bar Association-

tion, LNBA, to speak on unfolding national issues, especially the legal ones.

He maintained that if the National Bar Association of Liberia took a position on a national issue, it would be directing the way the court goes and the way the public understands such legal matters.

Before coming to the Judiciary, the retired Associate Justice Banks served in several public positions including Justice Minister, 1990-1994 in the Interim Government of National Unity; Member of the Council of State, Liberia National Transitional Government; Project Consultant, United States Institute of Peace 2004-2005; Legal consultant, Governance Reform Commission of Liberia, 2006-2007; Minister of Justice 2007-2008; and Chairman of the Law Reform Commission; 2008-2010, just to name a few.



ASSOCIATE JUSTICES, PROFESSOR PHILIP A. Z. BANKS, III

Judges Want Befitting Retirement Laws Passed



JUDGE ROOSEVELT WILLIE, RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE OF CRIMINAL COURT A

their profession but the appeals have fallen on deaf ears.

Comparing Liberia to other countries in the West African sub-region, Judge Willie disclosed that their colleagues in Ghana and regional countries retire with their salaries and benefits, such as vehicles, gasoline supply, allowances, amongst other things.

He further noted that their retired colleagues in the sub-region and elsewhere get increment in their retirement salaries when their colleagues in active service get pay raise. "Notwithstanding our efforts...our plights in retirement ...have yielded no fruitful results; thereby retiring us in abject poverty and disgrace."

It is frustrating and disheartening for professionals like us, he added, to serve our country

for all of our life time and reach retirement age of seventy (70) and live in abject poverty and disgrace for the rest of our lives; because the monthly salaries of (LD\$7,500 for judges and LD\$4,000 for magistrates) earned in retirement cannot put food on the table for us and our families, not to mention medical bills.

"This inhumane treatment has led to the untimely death of many of our colleagues!" Judge Willie lamented.

"The only hope for our retired members now, is our Association; meaning, the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia, which is catering to their welfare and wellbeing because, the country they worked and labored for during their youthful years has to the greater extent neglected them."

The NATJL president's call for improved re-

irement benefits is in line with Article 8.3 of the Universal Charter of the Judge, adopted by International Association of Judges, IAJ, in 1999 and updated in 2017. It states in part that, "The judge has a right to retirement with an annuity or pension in accordance with his or her professional category.

The International Association of Judges (IAJ) is a professional, non-political, international organization of national associations of judges, founded in Salzburg in 1953 and has its headquarters in Rome. The IAJ, amongst other things, advocates for improved remuneration for Judges and Magistrates as a way of promoting an effective, independent and corruption-free Judiciary globally.

Solicitor General, Cllr. Darku Mulbah, responding to the Joint Charge of the Judges, emphasized the need for adequate retirement benefits for judges and magistrates as a means of promoting an independent and corruption free Judiciary.

Cllr. Mulbah agreed that judges and magistrates be retired in dignity, adding that it was time for a proactive review of the laws on retirement to make them fit the realities of today. He promised the Justice Ministry's commitment to assisting in the process and called on all other relevant actors to help work on laws that will secure noble retirement for judges and magistrates.

Commenting on the unending allegations of corruption against the Judiciary, Cllr. Mulbah said such allegations were not just the making of the courts, but jurors who are by law required to assist the courts decide the fact of cases.

The solicitor general used the occasion to educate prospective jurors in attendance that their role was to help the courts dispense impartial justice and that they would account for their actions if they went contrary to the role as-

signed them.

He concluded his response by calling on the judges and the Public Defense Office to cooperate with the prosecution in dealing with the issues of pretrial detention—a situation which has become a major concern to the Liberian Government and her International Partners.

Also responding to judges' charge, the Coordinator of the Public Defense Office similarly agreed with the apprehension of judges about government's repeated failure to put in place a handsome pension scheme for judges.

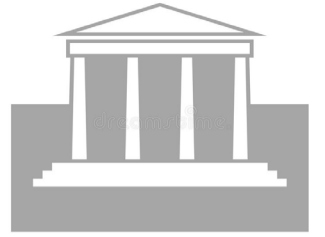
Cllr. James C. R. Flomo said, the Public Defense Office will work with other stakeholders to advocate for the passage of a law seeking improvement of the retirement benefits for Liberian judges.

The Chief of Public Defense however urged the judges to also plan for their retirement while in active service, especially if they serve for a protracted period within the Judiciary.

Remarking further, Cllr. Flomo appealed to the judges to honor the laws on releasing inmates if the Justice Ministry fails to prosecute an accused person in keeping with law.

Section 18.2 of Liberia's Criminal Procedure Law provides that: Unless good cause is shown, a court shall dismiss a complaint against a defendant who is not indicted by the end of the next succeeding term after his arrest for an indictable offense or his appearance in court in response to a summons or notice to appear charging him with such an offense. Unless good cause is shown, a court shall dismiss an indictment if the defendant is not tried during the next succeeding term after the finding of the indictment. A court shall dismiss a complaint charging a defendant with an offense triable by a magistrate or justice of the peace if trial is not commenced in court in response to a summons or notice to appear.

From The Courts



“Don’t talk to party litigants privately,” Chief Justice cautions judges



CHIEF JUSTICE FRANCIS S. KORKPOR, SR.

The Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia, His Honor Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. has frowned on judges entertaining party litigants in their chambers or at their homes, especially when such litigants are parties to cases before them.

Chief Justice Korkpor said judges should speak to party litigants in cases before them through their lawyers rather than holding conferences with plaintiffs or defendants directly either in their chambers, their homes or anywhere else. According to Chief Justice Korkpor, judges

have access to lawyers who represent the legal interests of the parties and advocate on their behalf, and as such, there should be no reason why a judge should meet with a lawyers’ client exclusively.

“If ‘Party A’ sees ‘Party B’ talking to a judge or

is seen with the judge in private, whether in his/her chambers or anywhere else, that act creates conflict of interest. So, don’t do it!”

“Justice should not only be done” the Chief Justice stressed, “but it should be seen. That’s what our law says,” he maintained.

The chief administrator of justice in Liberia made the statement during the official ceremonies marking the opening of the 2018 August Term of Court, which took place at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia on Monday, August 13, 2018.

Speaking further, Chief Justice Korkpor mentioned the failure of courts to enforce judgments as another problem that could affect the smooth administration of justice and called on judges to ensure the enforcement of judgments rendered by their courts.

“Judges’ failure to effect judgments of their courts could result to aggrieved parties running away from the court system and taking the law into their own hands. If you don’t enforce judgments, it renders the Judiciary a toothless bulldog.”

Citing an example, the Chief Justice said, ‘if a person wins an ejection case and the court fails to put that person in possession of the property, that failure creates lack of trust in the judicial system and makes the people to have no confidence in the courts.’

In another development, the Chief Justice announced that plans were underway for the creation of Sexual Offenses Courts (Criminal Court “E”) in Bong and Nimba Counties.

He noted that conditions were ripe for the establishment of Court “E” in the two counties because rape and rape related cases were rife, and the circuits have adequate space available to house the courts.

The Chief Justice however stressed that the Judiciary Branch was financially constrained to execute this plan and will be working with both the Legislative and Executive Branches of government to fulfill this plan.

An impartial judiciary sustains democracy says Judge Kaba

A senior Liberian jurist has described as critical to the sustenance of democracy in any nation, the promotion of an impartial and independent judiciary.

The Resident Circuit Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court, Yussif Kaba said the judiciary is an arm of government responsible to uphold the rule of law, and for it to be respected, it must be independent.

Judge Kaba made the statement during the opening of the September 2018 Term of the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia. The ceremony was attended by lawyers, magistrates, prospective jurors, party litigants, the media and the general public.

Delivering his charge, Judge Kaba said, the lack of independence in the judiciary breeds partiality which results in miscarriage of justice and any judicial institution lacking this level of independence, will not only fail to win the trust and confidence of the governed, but also, it will serve as a disincentive to investment and economic progress.

“In our opinion, the attitude and behavior of two important sets of players are essential in ensuring this highly important independence of the judicial institution. Those players are the officials of the Judiciary on the one hand, and the members of the other two branches of our government on the other.”



RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT, YUSSIF KABA

Judge Kaba, who returned home recently from serving as a Justice on the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice in Nigeria, noted that a judiciary can only be respected, if it is impartial and applies laws independently to facts in determining rights, duties and obligations without regard to external and internal interference.

He used the opportunity to call on judges to be impartial and independent and disallow any form of interference as a way of maintaining the respect of the judiciary and the confidence of the public, especially the governed.

Judge Kaba however said the judges should not show an antagonistic posture to the other

branches of the government, but that their actions must be corrective and complimentary. The Civil Law Court Judge also called on the other branches of the government to avoid interference with the Judiciary - which has the responsibility to give meaning to the laws of Liberia - for any meddling will cause an image problem for the entire government and bring

The Judiciary

EDITORIAL

Advancing Freedom of Information and the Right to Know

The Judiciary Branch of the Liberian Government is the final arbiter of constitutional issues and exercises final appellate jurisdiction in all cases whether emanating from courts of records, courts not of records, administrative agencies and so forth.

Since its creation, ordinary Liberians have had difficulty understanding its functions.

In light of this difficulty, the Judiciary under the administration of Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. has established the Public Information Department tasked with the responsibility to inform and educate the public about the Liberian Judiciary.

One of such mediums being the publication of a quarterly newsletter, "The Judiciary." The publications will provide basic education on the workings of the courts and events within the Judiciary, as well as provide basic legal education that will enlighten the public on the Rule of Law.

"The Judiciary" will also serve as a medium to create awareness that repositions the Judiciary Branch in a way that maintains its dignity and respect, in addition to the Judicial website (www.judiciary.gov.lr) which is one the most significant platforms for legal and academic research in Liberia.

It is our goal that this newsletter will bring the administration of justice closer to the public and promote understanding that will engender respect for the rule of law in Liberia.

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An impartial judiciary sustains democracy says Judge Kaba



RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL

the Judiciary to public disrepute. "The strength of the judiciary," he said, "is derived from the respect that is accorded to its officers and the orders emanating therefrom. A disrespect of the precepts and orders of the court by public officers is an affront to the integrity of the court and subject the court to disrepute."

Speaking further on the significance for respect for the Judiciary, Judge Kaba likened the court to a toothless bull dog, that uses

Judge Kaba noted that actions which go contrary to those set norms lead to "jungle justice" which eventually results into the breakdown of law and order.

He said the court is that neutral body created by the law to determine rights within the confine of the law, though the court may not at all times be right in all of its determinations. The judge however stated that the setup of this body is such that the incidence of such error is insignificant, and the creation of various levels

"If therefore, the legislative arm of the government disrespects the court precept and orders which the legislature directly or indirectly confers the right of issuance to the court, or the executive refuse to enforce the lawful order or respect the precept of the court, than how can it be expected that others will accord the court with the respect which the court stands in need of?"

- Judge Kaba

the law to bark, and relies on what he calls "the coercive power of the state" to bite. "If therefore, the legislative arm of the government disrespects the court precept and orders which the legislature directly or indirectly confers the right of issuance to the court, or the executive refuse to enforce the lawful order or respect the precept of the court, than how can it be expected that others will accord the court with the respect which the court stands in need of?"

Like the African adage goes, the learned judge added 'you cannot dress a devil in secret and undress it in public and expect it to be held in awe'. 'More besides, there are methods in the law to register disagreement with the position of the court, and there are remedies in the law to address such disagreements,' he maintained.

and the makeup of the review mechanism serve as a cushion to absorb any such errors or deliberate actions.

Reacting to the Judge's charge, Liberia's Chief Prosecutor, Cllr. Darku Mulbah said the Justice Ministry took seriously Judge Kaba's statements and encouraged concerned parties, especially stakeholders to ensure the sanctity of Judiciary is upheld.

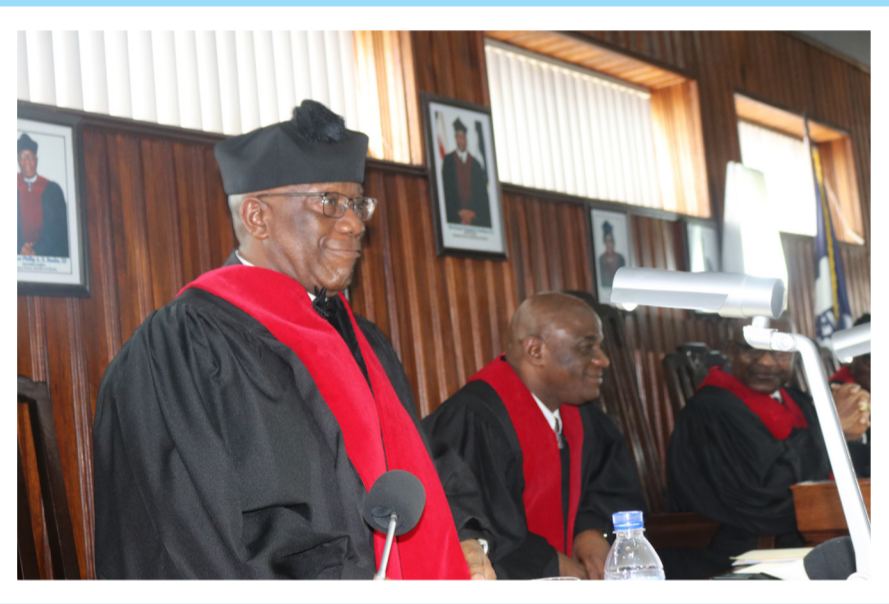
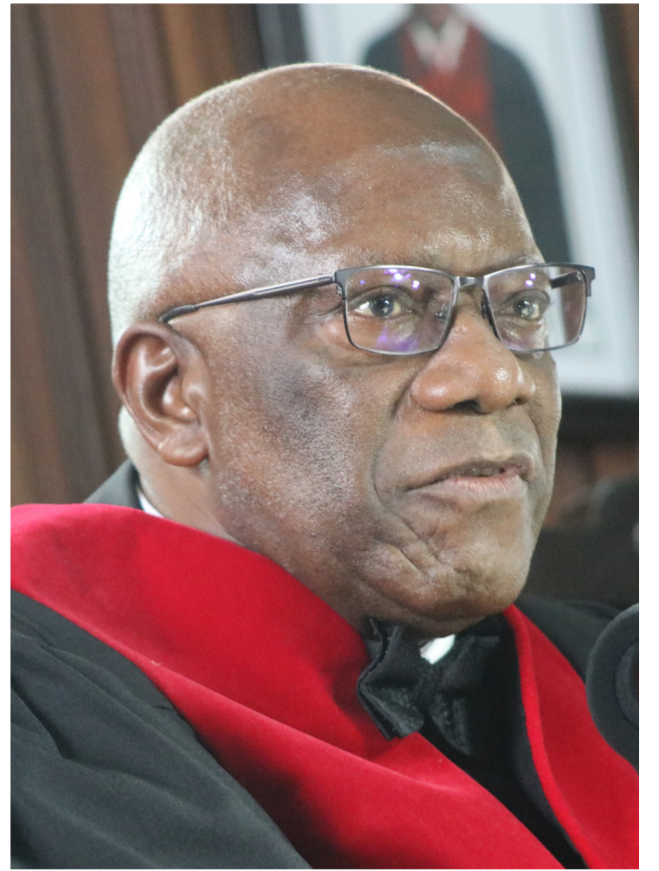
Solicitor General Mulbah disclosed to the gathering that the Justice Ministry has begun a radio program aimed at educating the public on the operations of the court as a part of the criminal justice system.

He urged other actors in the justice sector to follow suit, as doing so will lead to having an informed public that will not easily misrepresent and defame the court because of lack knowledge.

Associate Justice Philip A. Z. Banks, III Retirement - A Pictorial



Associate Justice Philip A. Z. Banks, III Retirement - A Pictorial



SPECIAL FEATURE

Profile of His Honor Philip A.Z. Banks, III



His Honor Justice Philip A. Z. Banks, III obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree (Cum Laude), in Sociology and Economics in 1971 and an LLB from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, all from the University of Liberia (Magnum Cum Laude) in 1974.

Justice Banks, with honors in 1976, obtained his LLM in Corporations and International Law from the Yale Law School, USA. He also obtained a certificate in International Humanitarian Law in 1978 and was a Visiting Scholar at the Yale Law School in 1990.

As a dedicated public servant, Justice Banks served in many professional capacities in the public and private sectors. Highlights of his public and

professional services to Liberia include Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Liberia 1973 – 1974, Legal Counsel, Ministry of Lands and Mines 1974 -1975 and Associate and Managing Director Morgan, Grimes and Harmon Law Firm 1976 – 1980.

Between 1976 and 1984, Justice Banks offered to lecture as Assistant Professor of Law, Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law and visiting Professor of Business Law, Mass Communications, and International Law at the University of Liberia.

Justice Banks also served as Founder and Managing Partner, Banks, Lewis and Williams Associates 1980-1984; Director of Research and Legal Department, National Constitution Commission 1982-1984; Dean, Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, Uni-

versity of Liberia 1983- 1984; Legal Advisor, Civil Society Organizations 1984-1990; Arbitrator designate of Liberia, International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes 1984-1990; and Minister of Justice RL twice, 1990-1994 and 2007-2008. He was also a Member of the Council of State, Liberia National Transitional Government 1994- 1995; Chief Executive Officer and Lead Supervising Editor, Liberia Law Experts, Inc. 1996 – 2002; Governance Consultant, African Development Bank 2001-2002; Legal Advisor, Vice Chairman and Consultant, Liberia Institute for Peace Democracy and Good Governance 2003- 2008; Project Consultant, United States Institute of Peace 2004-2005 and Chairman, Law Reform Commis-

sion 2008-2010.

His Honor Justice Philip A. Z. Banks, III was nominated, confirmed and commissioned to the Honorable Supreme Court Bench as Associate Justice in 2010 and had oversight over Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount Counties, homes of the 11th, 16th and 5th Judicial Circuits. An accomplished writer and publisher with numerous literary works to his credit, Justice Banks has affiliated with various professional organizations. He edited and indexed volumes of the Liberian Law Reports. His works include papers delivered on the political and legal systems of Liberia.

Liberia's first female magistrate retires honorably



RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE AMYMUSU K. JONES,

On the 3rd day of August 2018, Grand Cape Mount County witnessed the retirement of its Resident Circuit Judge, Her Honor Amymusu K. Jones, after nearly a quarter of a century of dedicated services to Liberia through the Liberian Judiciary.

The 24-year journey saw Judge Jones preside over the Monrovia City Magisterial Court, at the Temple of Justice, as its first female Magistrate; she also served at the Debt Court, Probate Court and other circuits before her preferment to the 5th Judicial Circuit as its

Resident Judge.

Held in the Courtroom housed by the Administrative Building in Robertsport, the provincial capital of Grand Cape Mount County, the ceremony was graced by all five justices of the Supreme Court, judges, magistrates, judicial workers, government officials, family members and friends of the honoree.

Presenting the retirement certificate to Judge Jones, Associate Justice Philip A. Z. Banks, III, himself retiring in four days, described the honoree as a lover of the law.

Justice Banks, in his regularly relaxed tone,

thanked the Almighty God for giving Liberia such a person like Judge Amymusu Jones, who served so well and her family for giving her time to have served the Judiciary the way she did.

In remarks, the President of the Grand Cape Mount County Bar Association said, they would miss the retired judge's quality of knowledge, sense of commitment and class of professionalism demonstrated in the interest of justice and for the good of the county.

Cllr. Ousman Feika prayed that Judge Jones' successor would be an embodiment of the qualities she stood for and a mirrored image of her good and enviable attributes she portrayed in the circuit and the Liberian Judiciary as a whole; and presented to the honoree a beautiful plaque for her immeasurable services.

The National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia represented by Debt Court Judge James E. Jones, raised the issue of adequate retirement benefits for judges.

Judge Jones told the gathering that Judges earned their living solely from the judgeship and nothing else; and therefore, needed to be compensated well at retirement if they were to enjoy their retirement and pay for the problems associated with old age.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, His Honor Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., expressed happiness upon hearing from county authorities that Retired Judge Jones was a fair-minded person.

Chief Justice Korkpor noted that the entire Judiciary had gone to Grand Cape Mount County to celebrate and appreciate the great works of justice, to which Judge Jones had dedicated her life in service to her country.

The Chief Justice agreed with Judge James E. Jones that judges needed to be paid well and retired with a package adequate to sustain

them when they reach retirement.

He however expressed the hope that a recent law passed by the Legislature, though not yet being implemented, will, soon, cure the problem of inadequate pension benefits for judges. In response to the many praises heaped upon her, Retired Judge Amymusu K. Jones thanked the Judiciary for according her the opportunity to work for her country and people. Judge Jones – first female magistrate in the Republic of Liberia and first female judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit said she was honored to have served the Liberian people and Cape Mountainians.

“There is a stage in every person's life that he/she has to play a part and prepare to bow down when the stage is about to be closed. The performance in my judicial stage has come to an end and I must bow away for the curtain to close,” she said.

She then thanked her family and staff of the 5th Judicial Circuit Court, as well as other local authorities of the county, for their invaluable cooperation while she was in active service. Before her statement, Associate Justice Yuoh and Justice Wolokolie, the two female Supreme Court Justices, along with the Court Administrator, presented the retiree with gifts from the Judiciary, including a very beautiful plaque with inscription: “THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SERVICES.”

Retired Judge Amymusu K. Jones replaced the late Resident Circuit Judge, His Honor, Varney D. Cooper of the Fifth Judicial Circuit in April of 2006, serving the circuit for 12 years. Sadly on September 3, 2018, exactly 30 days after her retirement, Judge Jones died at the Duside Hospital in Margibi County and was buried in Grand Cape Mount County on 15 September 2018.

Circuit Judge pleads with locals to trust court system

The Resident Circuit Judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit Court, Lofa County, has called on residents of the county to make use of the court system in the northwestern county if offended by anyone.

Her Honor Nancy Finda Sammy advised the people of Lofa to avoid taking the law into their hands as such act undermines the norms of civilized societies.

Delivering her charge during the opening of August 2018 Term of Court in Voinjama City, Judge Sammy said, once the citizens took their complaints to the courts, judges would be under legal obligation to, at all times, ensure that justice prevails in every case brought before them.

Judge Sammy's charge was not short of calls for Magistrates to be vigilant, cautious and diligent in handling cases forwarded to the various Magisterial Courts. “Justice delayed, is justice denied. And if justice is delayed and denied, people will have a negative view of the

entire Judiciary. We cannot allow this to happen in our county. So, let us please be mindful.”

She however warned magistrates to refrain from handling cases brought before them that have the propensity of promoting conflict of interest, but that they should recuse themselves when such situations came about.

“This is important because, as dispensers of justice, we cannot allow ourselves to be caught in situations that would embarrass us, yea the entire Judiciary. We, as judges, must at all-time exhibit cool neutrality in the cases we handle, and we must always remember that we are never parties to a suit,” said Judge Sammy.

Judge Sammy reassured the people of Lofa that the 10th Judicial Circuit Court and all other Magisterial Courts in the county will make justice accessible to all- because this is vital to the development agenda of Liberia.

Development in any nation will be illusive whenever the rule of law and governance are



HER HONOR NANCY FINDA SAMMY

undermined, access to justice is absent, and the marginalized are deprived of opportunities of redress and protection under the law, Judge Sammy stressed.

She sent a categorical caveat that as the Resident Judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit, she will not allow any Magistrate, neither the Prosecuting Attorney, nor the Defense Attorneys, least to mention any Judicial worker, to take undue advantage of any citizen of Lofa simply because they are connected to the courts.

Judge Sammy told the gathering of lawyers, government officials and citizens attending the court's opening that any one judicial actor complained of for engaging in such behavior would have himself or herself to blame because the court would ensure that appropriate measures are taken against such individuals. “Let this caveat please claim your attention because this Court will be robust in ensuring that the ‘citizens’ rights are protected in this county,” the Judge concluded.

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Web: www.judiciary.gov.lr | Email: info@judiciary.gov.lr/pio.judiciary.gov.lr | Contacts: Attorney Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr. Director of Public Information/Managing Editor, 0886458993 Zito F. Slebah, Deputy Director, Public Information Department/Chief Editor, 0776748370

Bruce S. B. Boweh, Public Information Officer for Media Relations/ Editor, 0777200841 Naiye Kwiah-Wiaplah, Public Information Assistant Officer for Web management /News Editor, 0775656651 Romeo Quoi, Layout Artist/Web Manager, 0880811238 Kortee Smith, Compilation Clerk, 0777940758